

# TAC POST

Volume 15

March 2003

**U.S.S. Arizona  
makes history  
at the RTI**

**CLASS 43  
gives new look  
to TAC Post**



## TAC POST



**OCS Class XLIII**  
***"Point of the Sword"***



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**Front Cover:** Class of 43 climbs to higher ground on Camelback Mountain, Phoenix, AZ. From left to right. OC Craig Falewicz, OC Edwin Longwell, OC Damon Juarez, OC Mario Mercado. Not shown in photo OC Gordon Smith, OC Michael Vessey

The TAC Post is intended to provoke opinions, critical thought, and provide general feedback for all OCS Class XLIII candidates and those who read its contents. It is also intended to enhance each candidate's writing skills. TAC Post articles vary each month. These articles may address issues pertaining to current personal growth, world affairs, the armed forces, military history, or the Arizona Army National Guard.

# VOICE

Historians will tell you "if it wasn't written, it wasn't so". Effective immediately our history and legacy will be recorded in a manner that lets our state and nation know you were here and most importantly that you are making a difference.



We are very excited about what the new mission of the TAC POST will accomplish. The TAC POST hopes to document just a small portion of a very big picture; we will do this via way of photographs and articles. This will also increase your responsibility as Officer Candidates. You must insure that the our story is told. Commitment to details and deadlines is mandatory.

The message the TAC POST will announce monthly is that you are here and that you are making a difference for both you and the state of Arizona. As future officers, your thoughts and words will need to be logical and focused. This should not come as any stress to you at all; for wanting to have your input make an impact is exactly why you have chosen the responsibility of being a U.S. Army officer.

Consider it an order to fully participate in this new and exciting publication. I know you will do it proud!

**Major Steve Smith**  
Senior TAC Officer, Adjutant





As leaders, both your troops and the civilian will expect you to know the facts.

You will be judged not by your opinion; rather how well you are informed on the facts.

Television is no substitute; you need to read and read and read some more.

The following is a time line that should get you somewhat familiar of the events that are happening. By the time of your next TAC POST, America will be at war and several more chapters of history will have been written.

**Feb 4:** Blix estimates the Iraq war clock at "five minutes to midnight."

**Feb 5:** Addressing the UN, Powell displays intercepted phone calls and satellite photos he says prove the Iraqis are trying to hide their weapons of mass destruction program.

**Feb 11:** An Audio recording purportedly by bin Laden urges Muslims to defend and fight for Iraq.

**Feb 13:** Bush tells the UN that they must help confront Saddam or risk becoming irrelevant. Powell tells congress that Americans should prepare for a fairly long commitment in Iraq.

**Feb 15:** More than 4 million protestors demonstrate around the world against a U.S. attack on Iraq.

**Feb 17:** NATO agrees to begin planning on how to help defend Turkey in a war. The first U2 flights take place over Iraq.

**Feb 18:** As U.S. ships wait off shore, Turkey asks to double the multi-billion dollar aid package as a condition for use of its bases.

**Feb 20:** Rumsfeld says enough troops are in the Gulf region that for an invasion.

**Feb 24:** The United States, Britain and Spain introduce a UN resolution

declaring Saddam in violation of orders to disarm.

**Feb 26:** Bush describes his vision of a Middle East transformed in the aftermath of a war with Iraq.

**Feb 27:** Iraq agrees in principle to destroy a banned missile system

**March 1** Al-Qaeda leader Khalid Shaikh Mohammed. Suspected mastermind of the Sept 11 attacks, is arrested in Pakistan. The Turkish Parliament rejects a motion to use Turkish bases.

**March 2** Iraq begins to demolish it's AlSamoud 2 missiles. Bahrain, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates call for Saddam to step down.

**March 4:** Powell expresses confidence the US led resolution will win a majority in the security council.

**March 5:** France, Russia and Germany vow to defeat the resolution. Bush meets with Army General Tommy Franks, who says he is ready to wage war if ordered.

**March 6:** Bush tells reporters he will demand a vote in the UN in a week.

So the question is "how much information does one need to know to be factual?" Well for starters, if you cannot identify the names of those who are in the pictures above... you have a lot of reading to do!



## On Your Mark, get Ready!

By BOC Mario Mercado and  
BOC Damon Juarez

"Terrorism forces us to make a choice.  
We can be afraid. Or we can be ready."  
-Secretary Tom Ridge, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The moment could strike at any time...while slowly driving along the freeway home to your family, or perhaps while you are working in your office or at lunch. BOOM!! It could be an explosion, shattering windows all around you or maybe off in the distance, more felt than heard. It may only be a grim announcement on the radio relaying an urgent message, another terrorist attack.

The nation is currently at Orange alert level and the need to be prepared for a terrorist attack has never been greater. The Department of Homeland Defense

has created a website and a pamphlet to help ensure the American people are ready for any eventuality. The information focuses on making an emergency preparedness kit, making a plan, and being informed. The web site can be found at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) where the "Preparing Make Sense" brochure can be downloaded or call 1-800-BE-READY. Among the main points addressed is the emergency kit that should include water, food, first aid kit, and protection supplies. Everyone should have at least a three-day supply of water per person allowing for at least one gallon per day per person.

This amount should be substantially increased for those living in hot climates such as ours during the summer. A first aid kit should be ready for any and all types of wounds possible.

Examples of what should be included are covered in detail in the website as well as types of food to stock. Of particular importance to any such kit are special item needs for children, seniors or anyone with disabilities which may include additional hygiene necessities, medications, and backup medical supplies.

Having an emergency action plan is also essential, for the individual and the entire family. Emergency contacts, both local and long-distance, should be established in advance to maintain communication. Keeping change and calling cards is important as cell phones networks may be overwhelmed in the area and local land lines may be down. The most essential part of plan is anticipating what to do depending on where you are likely to be in case of such an event, like work or at school and what should be done in each particular case. Making these decisions beforehand, especially for a family, will eliminate much confusion and the Homeland Security website will help everyone make all those decisions.

## TALKS OF DRAFT

By BOC Damon Juarez

As the United States and Iraq draw closer to the possibilities of war, Charles Rangel, D-N.Y. is working diligently to have the draft reinstated. The draft has been "shelved" ever since 1973, upon the conclusion of the Vietnam War. And since then the U.S. went to an all-voluntary force. The President, Pentagon and the Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld all agree that an all-voluntary force is more efficient and professional compared to the draft force in Vietnam.

The majority of people favor some type of universal national service. Charles Moskos, a Northwestern University Sociologist, who studies militaries had said, "the problem with a all voluntary force is children of America's Elite are not serving and it is not good for the military or the Nation". Moskos has proposed a 3-tiered draft, designed to include college students. The following are his recommendations: either serve in the Armed Services,

Homeland Security Agency such as: Border Patrol or in a Public Service Organization which would include the Peace Corps.

In a recent survey of 1200 college students at Harvard, 67% opposed a draft of any kind. It is my opinion that people are free to make their own decisions. I mean how would it look if you were to say, I am an American, living in a free country and my Government Officials are forcing me to join the Armed Forces and fight. I can only imagine were the level dedication and loyalty will be when the bullets start flying. For me, serving my country is personal reward, as it should be for every soldier.

In conclusion, the draft will only force Americans into a panic. The Selective Service remains intact and there is no reason to "rock the boat" just yet. Currently, no decision has been made on this topic but only time will tell

*Top right:*

**It's good to be alive**

Class 43 prepares for PT in the fine Arizona morning air

*Top Left:*

**We were here**

While on their way to Hawaii for a five day training mission, Class 43 stops for the obligatory cheesy photo opportunity, with the Nevada Mountains in the background.

*Bottom left:*

**His first tags**

Damon Juarez awards a student with a set of dog tags for a job well done during the Wilson School clean up event.

*Bottom right:*

**I love this job**

Class 43, along with other candidates from Nevada enjoy consolidated PT in December.



**FOCUSED** ON YOU



# legacy of the

# chain

Story and photo by  
BOC Damon Juarez

**“Very few know, as they walk through our doors of the RTI, about the profound history standing vigilant here before them;”** the sunken U.S.S *Arizona*, whose black

tears forever float up through the clear Hawaiian waters to the well-known memorial above, now has another memorial in the state she represents. An anchor chain from the ship has been restored and displayed at the Arizona Regional Training Institute, almost 90 years after it was first placed aboard the new vessel.

The ship first set sail from the Navy yard in Brooklyn on June 19, 1915 and she served as a gunnery training ship in WWI. Then in 1918 she joined Battleship Division Six serving with the British Grand Fleet and later escorted the transport *George Washington* which carried President Woodrow Wilson to the Paris Peace Conference. In 1929, she went into dry dock in Norfolk, Virginia to undergo upgrades such as new guns, armor plating and other additions. After all the changes were made, larger anchors and chains were needed so the original anchor chains were replaced and left in the shipyards. There they remained, along with similar parts of so many other ships of the time, until the late 1950s.

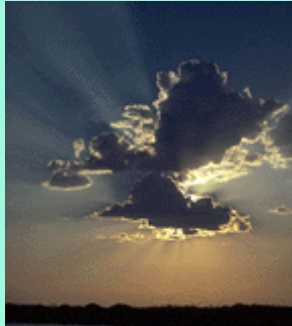
Around that time, when the Hawaii memorial was being created, the Arizona legislature received a call from the Norfolk shipyards offering the chain. The offer was accepted and in turn it was given to the Arizona National Guard. The chain was taken to the Papago Park Military Reservation and displayed in various locations until finally coming to rest at the 385<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment to mark the



boundary of the unit. In 2002, the 385<sup>th</sup> Aviation RGT and the 158<sup>th</sup> RGT RTI together agreed to preserve the chain as a memorial in the oldest military facility of the state, the Arizona Military Academy.

The anchors are prominently displayed within the atrium or quad of the RTI and curve around the base of the flagpole. The arched design of the chains reflect the architecture of the facility and stand as a solemn reminder to all the aspiring and future leaders that pass through the academy of the sacrifice made by those who went before them and the sacred responsibility they wish to assume. A single link of the chain was also given to the Hawaii Army National Guard RTI in remembrance of the tragedy that befell America there before Hawaii was a state, as well as to commemorate the consolidated training the two states have shared over the past ten years.

# date line march. 2003



Before World War Two, and up to the incident involving the Sullivan brothers, it was common in the armed forces to have brothers serving in the same unit. Five brothers of the Sullivan family were killed when the USS Juneau was sunk in night combat off of Guadalcanal. The military tried to get away from this practice, as to avoid a whole family being wiped out. Still, exceptions could be found later in the war. The following is such an exception, from the book "Unexplained Mysteries of World War II," by William B. Breuer.



**Sat Mar 1**  **Partly Cloudy 60/51**

**Sun Mar 2**  **Showers 60/50**

**Mon Mar 3**  **Partly Cloudy 68/50**

**Tue Mar 4**  **Partly Cloudy 62/51**

**Wed Mar 5**  **Few Showers 59/54**

In 1945, General MacArthur was positioned to take back the Philippines from the Japanese. On the morning of February 16, the U.S. 503<sup>rd</sup> Parachute Infantry Regimental Combat team would jump on the island of Corregidor. The paratroopers would be jumping at 500 feet, with 25 mile an hour crosswinds. Earlier, during the invasion of Normandy in the European theater, paratroopers from the 101<sup>st</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne had been dropped miles from their intended site. Units were mixed, and troopers might not even see the guys they had jumped with for some time.

## **NORTH KOREA'S DEFIANT NUCLEAR STAND**

By BOC Mario Mercado

North Korea has publicly stated that they would win a nuclear standoff with the United States, leaving some South Korean officials convinced that the North's weapons programs could start an atomic arms race in Northeast Asia. A recent radio broadcast by North Korea's state-run radio station claimed that "The victory in the nuclear conflict is ours, and the red flag of the army-first policy will flutter ever more vigorously."

**Thur Mar 6**  **Partly Cloudy 74/55**

**Sat Mar 8**  **Mostly Sunny 77/54**

Two identical twins, PFC Ammizon B. Impson, Jr., and PFC Jack N. Impson, were in the 462<sup>nd</sup> Parachute Field Artillery Battalion. This unit was part of the 503<sup>rd</sup>, and the two brothers would be participating in the Corregidor jump. Due to the hazards associated with the jump, U.S. Navy PT boats would be standing by close to the shore in case any paratroopers ended up in the water. Two paratroopers were seen coming down in Manila Bay, and the PT boats responded immediately. PFC Ammizon Impson was the first paratrooper reached.

While the U.S. and its allies demand that North Korea halt their nuclear weapons program, the North in turn demands direct talks with the U.S. and the creation of a non-aggression treaty. South Korea's president insists that if the North continues its' production of nuclear weapons, then it would force South Korea and Japan to build nuclear weapons also. U.S. officials believe that North Korea has one or two nuclear weapons and may have the ability to manufacture eight more.



## **A Successful Drop** By BOC Lee

After he was safely aboard the PT boat, he immediately wondered the fate of his twin brother. Did he make the drop zone? Had he landed safely with the rest of the unit?

The PT boat raced towards the other trooper in the water, and successfully retrieved him. In an incredible case of coincidence, it was Jack Impson. The two twins had landed in Manila Bay some 40 yards from each other.

There are currently 37,000 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea. Next month, there are two joint military exercises taking place with South Korea. These maneuvers are conducted annually and are "defense oriented", however, North Korea consistently opposes such exercises and views them as preparation for an invasion.

While the U.N. Security Council has the option of considering economic sanctions against North Korea, the North stated that any sanctions would be considered an act of war.